

**Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1(Currently Amended). A bearing shell comprising:

a backing material of metal, ~~in particular of steel~~, which is coated at least with a plain bearing material, ~~and including characterized in that~~ at least one oil-conveying groove [[(6) is]] stamped into the rear of the backing material [[(2)]].

2(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the groove [[(6)]] extends from a bearing shell end over a part [[(8)]] of the outer circumference of the bearing shell [[(1)]].

3(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, ~~or claim 2, characterized in that wherein~~ the groove [[(6)]] extends in the circumferential direction.

4(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the groove [[(6)]] opens into a [[the]] parting face [[(4a)]] of the bearing shell [[(1)]].

5(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim[[s]] 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that the, wherein the~~ groove [[(6)]] extends over a circumferential angle [[(8)]] of [[??]]  $\leq 120^\circ$ .

6(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the groove [[(6)]] extends over a circumferential angle [[(8)]] of [[??]]  $\leq 90^\circ$ .

7(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim[[s]] 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the groove ~~(6) exhibits its has a maximum depth T<sub>max</sub> in the area of [[the]] a parting face [[(4a)]] and where in that depth T reduces continuously along the groove [[(6)]] until T=0.~~

8(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 7, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the depth T<sub>max</sub> is [[?]]  $\leq 0.8 D$ , where[[in]] D is the thickness of the backing material [[(2)]].

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9(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, wherein claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the plain bearing material (3) consists of is selected from a group consisting essentially of an Al alloy [[or]] and a sintered bronze.

10(Currently Amended). A bearing having two bearing shells (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that each comprising a backing material of metal which is coated at least with a plain bearing material, and including at least one oil-conveying groove stamped into the rear of the backing material wherein the two bearings shells [[(1)]] are arranged in such a way that [[the]] parting faces of the two bearing shells [[(4a)]] into which the grooves [[(6)]] open lie against one another.

11(Cancelled).

12(Currently Amended). A method of producing baring shells, comprising having the following method steps:

- production preparing of a strip of composite material by coating one side of a metallic backing material with at least one plain bearing material,
- stamping [[of]] grooves into the bare backing material of the strip,
- cutting off of portions of material,
- shaping [[of]] the cut portions of material into bearing shells, and
- internal machining of the bearing shells to remove material, which is associated with removal of material.

13(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the grooves are stamped [[in]] perpendicular to [[the]] a direction of feed of the strip.

14(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the characterized in that grooves are stamped [[in]] with a continuously reducing groove depth T.

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15(Currently Amended). A method according to claim[[s]] 12 [[to 14]], characterized in that wherein a surplus of the plain bearing material is applied to the backing material with an excessive amount of surplus and in that the bearing material is thereafter reduced to its final thickness during the internal machining of the bearing shell.

16(Currently Amended). A method according to claim[[s]] 12 to 15, wherein characterized in that at least one compensating stamping is made introduced in each case on the opposite side of the strip from the groove.

17(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 16, characterized in that wherein the compensating stamping is introduced made in the area of the parting line.

18(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 16 or claim 17, characterized in that wherein a wedge-shaped groove is stamped in as the compensating stamping.